

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 153

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to recognize March 2023 as Tennessee Litter Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1983, the Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Litter Grant Program has used dedicated funds to prevent litter through cleaning up communities and educating the public, while improving local recycling programs and water quality; and

WHEREAS, litter grants are awarded annually to all ninety-five counties and, through the efforts of collaborative county partners, remove an annual average of 11,700 tons of litter, totaling around 450,000 tons of litter over the thirty-nine-year history of the program; and

WHEREAS, Keep Tennessee Beautiful is funded by the TDOT Litter Grant Program and is an adjunct service of the University of Memphis, providing expertise in litter prevention education, litter law enforcement, community enhancement through beautification, and volunteer recruitment and management; and

WHEREAS, since 1989, TDOT has administered the Adopt-A-Highway Program to combat litter along State routes and to involve thousands of Tennesseans in volunteer cleanups across the State; and

WHEREAS, TDOT spends more than \$23 million annually on litter pickup and prevention education and has reduced statewide roadside litter by fifty-three percent since 2006; and

WHEREAS, TDOT's research-based litter prevention campaign, Nobody Trashes Tennessee, maintains constant statewide litter prevention awareness and works collaboratively to support all state and county litter prevention programs and partners; and

WHEREAS, every March, the Governor, by Executive Order, proclaims March as Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month. March is also the kick-off for the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TDOT Litter Grant program will be celebrating forty years in 2023, and this year is also the fortieth anniversary of Keep Tennessee Beautiful; and

WHEREAS, litter prevention and pickup efforts are critical to keeping Tennessee's roadways safe, communities vibrant, residents healthy, and waterways clean and to maintaining the natural beauty of our State; and

WHEREAS, the struggle against litter is ongoing, and it is important to continually encourage a clean and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, litter abatement and prevention should be promoted for reasons of public health and safety, economic development, aesthetics, and conservation of environmental and financial resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of this State in the celebration of March 2023 as Tennessee Litter Awareness Month, with each week focused on the separate missions of litter pickup, prevention education, enforcement, and cleanup of Tennessee's waterways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.